
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5534

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the developmental services (DDS) commissioner, by July 1, 2016, to provide all people with intellectual disability who are eligible for DDS services with the services for which they are eligible. This must include people on a waiting list. The department must do so in accordance with a plan the bill requires the commissioner to develop by July 1, 2015 in consultation with various groups. These services must include community-based residential services, respite care, emergency care, day program services, vocational services, and in-home support services.

The bill specifies the required components of the plan. The commissioner must submit it by January 1, 2016 to the Public Health, Human Services, and Appropriation committees.

The bill also requires that DDS's provision of these services not lead to a reduction in (1) other DDS services or (2) pay or benefits for employees of DDS or organizations funded by DDS to provide services to people with intellectual disability.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, generally requires DDS to provide these services to eligible people with intellectual disabilities, within available appropriations (see, e.g., CGS §§ 17a-217, 218, 226).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

DDS SERVICES PLAN FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

The bill requires the DDS commissioner, in developing the plan, to consult with:

1. people receiving DDS services,
2. family members of such people,
3. members of organizations that advocate for such people,
4. service providers, and
5. representatives of service providers' labor organizations.

The plan must describe:

1. additional staffing and facilities that DDS anticipates are likely to be needed to provide the services described above,
2. any Medicaid waiver likely needed to provide these services, and
3. additional resources likely needed to provide these services.

The plan also must indicate (1) how much state funding will be needed to provide these services and (2) a timeline to implement the plan by July 1, 2016.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 1 (03/21/2014)